

6. What are the geographic boundaries within San Juan County, Colorado that the EPA is recommending for the National Priority List?

EPA is not recommending NPL or any specific geographic boundaries at this time. Geographic boundaries would be determined in a future proposed listing process if that was the preferred path forward.

7. Why does the EPA believe it is necessary to list the proposed area on the National Priority List?

EPA is not recommending NPL proposal at this time. Based on the [meeting talking points], there are reasons NPL proposal may be appropriate.

8. What is the scope of work associated with addressing the issues within the proposed area?

EPA is not proposing a scope of work or a proposed area at this time. The [meeting talking points] address generally the process for removal and remedial response actions.

9. What data has been collected in the proposed area?

Significant amounts of data exist for Cement Creek and the Upper Animas to Eureka. Since 2012, EPA has collected extensive annual high and low flow surface water as well as sediment samples along Cement Creek and the Animas River up to Eureka and at the mouth of Mineral Creek. In addition, in 2014, EPA collected pore water and aquatic macroinvertebrates samples from Animas along with surface water and sediments. EPA has also collected samples from multiple sources (mine waste piles, fluvial tailings and draining mine adits) in the Upper Animas and Cement Creek.

10. Is the data that has been collected in the proposed area available to the public?

Data associated with prior discussions about Upper Animas Mining District NPL listing presented on the GKM website. (<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/august-31-2015-documents-related-prior-national-priorities-list-discussions>) Also, EPA has collected extensive data since 2012. Data collected prior to 2015 have been made available at the Silverton Library and from EPA's Region 8 Upper Animas Mining District web site. (<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/upper-animas-mining-district>). Samples collected in 2015 prior to the Gold King Mine blowout are currently being analyzed and will be available in the near future.

EPA is aware that significant data generated for a variety of purposes by partners in the ARSG process exists and has been made available by the ARSG.

11. Has a preliminary assessment for the proposed area been prepared, and if so, is it available to the public for review?

[working on this]

12. Where does the proposed area score on the Hazard Ranking System?

The scoring process would be done prospectively if the decision is made to proceed with proposed NPL listing.

13. What assurance can the EPA provide that the appropriate funding necessary to address acid mine drainage in the Animas River Watershed will be provided in a timely manner?

EPA has and will continue to prioritize this work to provide funding. The [meeting talking points] outline the process for funding removal and remedial actions.

14. What impact would a Superfund listing have on County and Town Real Property?

Region 8's limited experience with this is mixed. Since there are many factors that impact property values, it is very difficult for EPA to determine the impact of Superfund designation. According to at least one study, once the cleanup is complete, property values rebound and improve due to the environmental cleanup. For example, an academic study published in 2013 by the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* found that residential property values within three miles of Superfund sites increased 18.6-24.5 percent when sites were cleaned up and deleted from the National Priorities List.

www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0095069612001167

15. What impact would a Superfund listing have on lending within San Juan County (Commercial/Mortgage/Private)?

We have mixed experienced with this issue at sites where releases that are part of the Superfund investigation and cleanup are within residential areas. Generally, if the releases that are part of the Superfund investigation and cleanup are within residential areas, the Superfund process helps inform real estate transactions. First by identifying the presence of any known contaminants of concern related to the site, and second by providing a means to clean up those contaminants to acceptable levels.

While prospective buyers and sellers should direct real estate questions to local real estate professionals and lenders, EPA representatives can conduct presentations or provide information about site investigation and cleanup plans for the public including the real estate and lending community. In the past, EPA has also discussed site conditions and provided letters to potential lenders describing the current status of the Superfund site, as it pertains to a specific property being considered for a loan. These conversations or status letters have typically satisfied lenders and allowed loans to move forward.

16. Will Historical Structures be preserved and protected?

Yes, EPA is required to meet National Historic Preservation Act requirements and will work with the community and the San Juan Historical Society on historical preservation issues.

17. Has a Superfund proposal for the Forest Service Lands been presented? If so, has the agency responded?

Not at this time. EPA is working with the federal land manager to address issues on lands they manage.

18. Has a Superfund proposal for the Bureau of Land Management been presented? If so, has the agency responded?

Not at this time. EPA is working with the federal land manager to address issues on lands they manage.